

REMARKS

As an initial matter, applicants note that by way of a preliminary amendment filed on December 31, 2003, applicants have added claims 12-14. Thus, claims 1-14 were pending. Applicants respectfully request an acknowledgement from the Office to this effect.

Claims 1-11 stand provisionally rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 101 as claiming the same invention as that of claims 1-11 of copending Application No. 10/762,328. Applicants have cancelled claims 1-14 and added claims 15-23.


It is respectfully submitted that these new claims do not conflict with the claims in Application No. 10/762,328. Applicants earnestly await an early favorable consideration of these new claims.

If there are any questions regarding this amendment or the application in general, a telephone call to the undersigned would be appreciated since this should expedite the prosecution of the application for all concerned.

If necessary to effect a timely response, this paper should be considered as a petition for an Extension of Time sufficient to effect a timely response, and please charge any deficiency in fees or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 05-1323 (Docket #056203.49700C1).

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Respectfully submitted,



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